

Congestion Issues on the Texas Border

**2nd Annual
Border to Border Conference
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The Congestion Headlines

- Congestion is growing...
- ...in cities of all sizes
- It affects more:
 - times of the day
 - roads, bridges, buses & trains
 - places
- It occurs on weekends, in the country...
- It affects people and freight
- And its rarely “typical”

Congestion is Getting Worse in Cities of All Sizes

Very Large = 3 M +
Large = 1 M - 3 M
Medium = 500 K - 1 M
Small = Below 500 K

Delay per Traveler



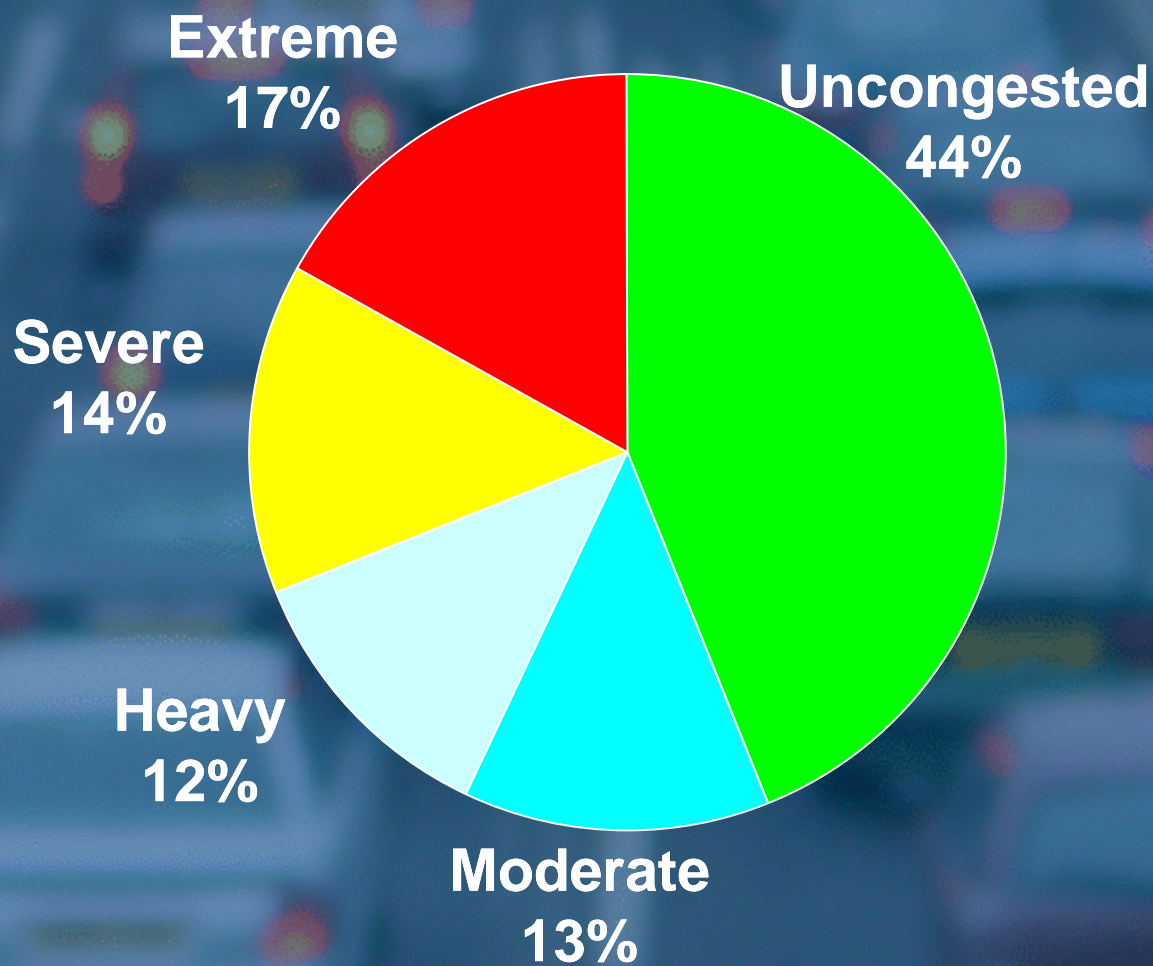
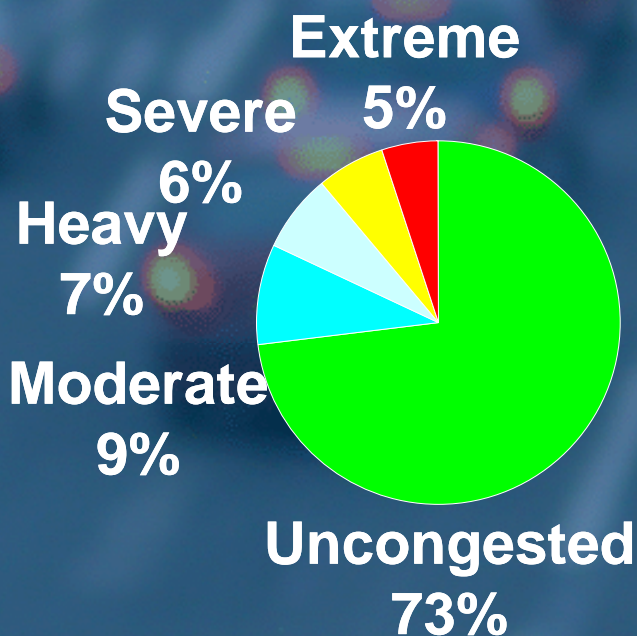
Wasting More Time and Fuel

1982

*Total Delay =
0.8 Billion Hours*

2005

*Total Delay =
4.2 Billion Hours*

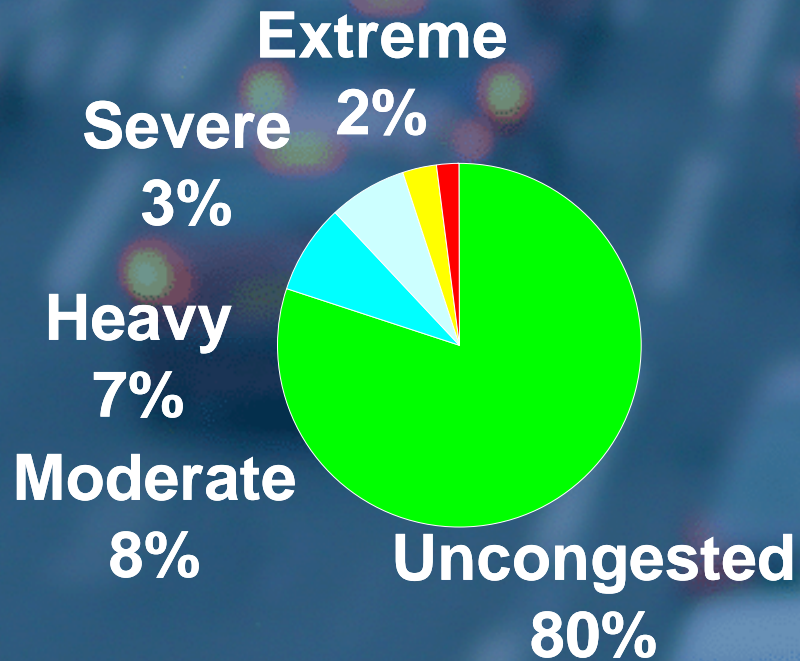


**Wasted Fuel
(Same Trend)
2.9 B Gallons in 2005**

.....& Texas Congestion is Worse Than Most

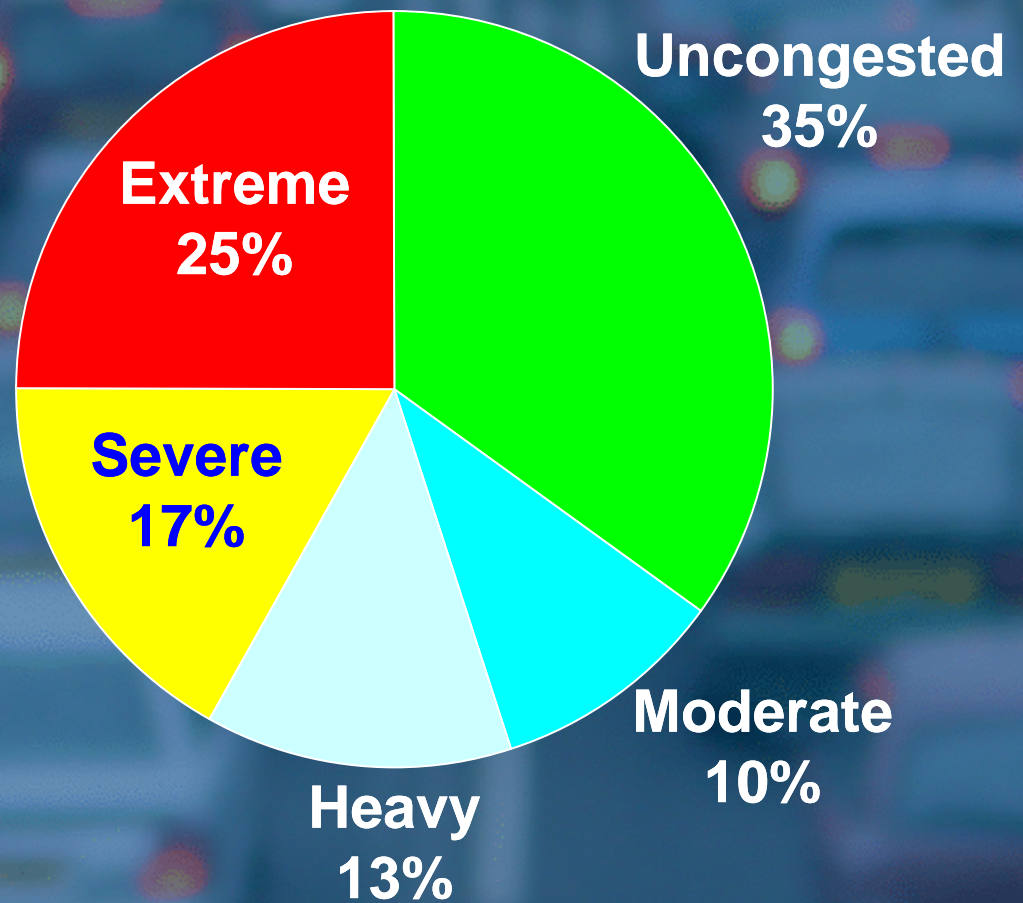
1982

*Total Delay =
55 Million Hours*



2005

*Total Delay =
359 Million Hours*



Texas Congestion “Tax” - 2005

Average peak period traveler delay & cost

- Dallas-Ft Worth & Houston 57 hours \$1,000+
- Austin 49 hours \$910
- San Antonio 39 hours \$700
- El Paso 24 hours \$435

- **The state:**
 - 360 million hours
 - 250 million gallons
 - \$6.7 billion cost

Freight Congestion

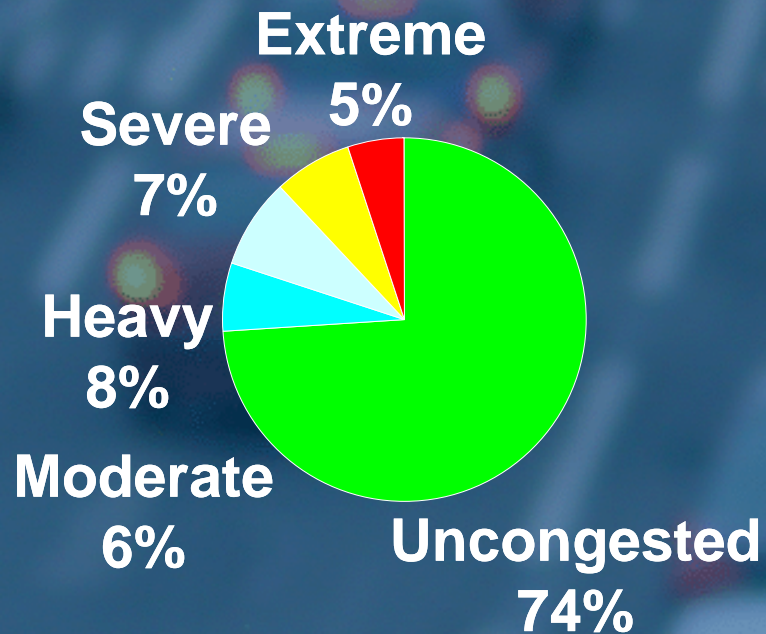
A Key Element of the 21st Century Economy

- National truck delay
 - 240 million truck hours
 - \$19 billion
- In addition...
- Inventory costs
- Just-in-time operations
- Fleet productivity
- Distribution centers
- *Public & private sector decision structures*



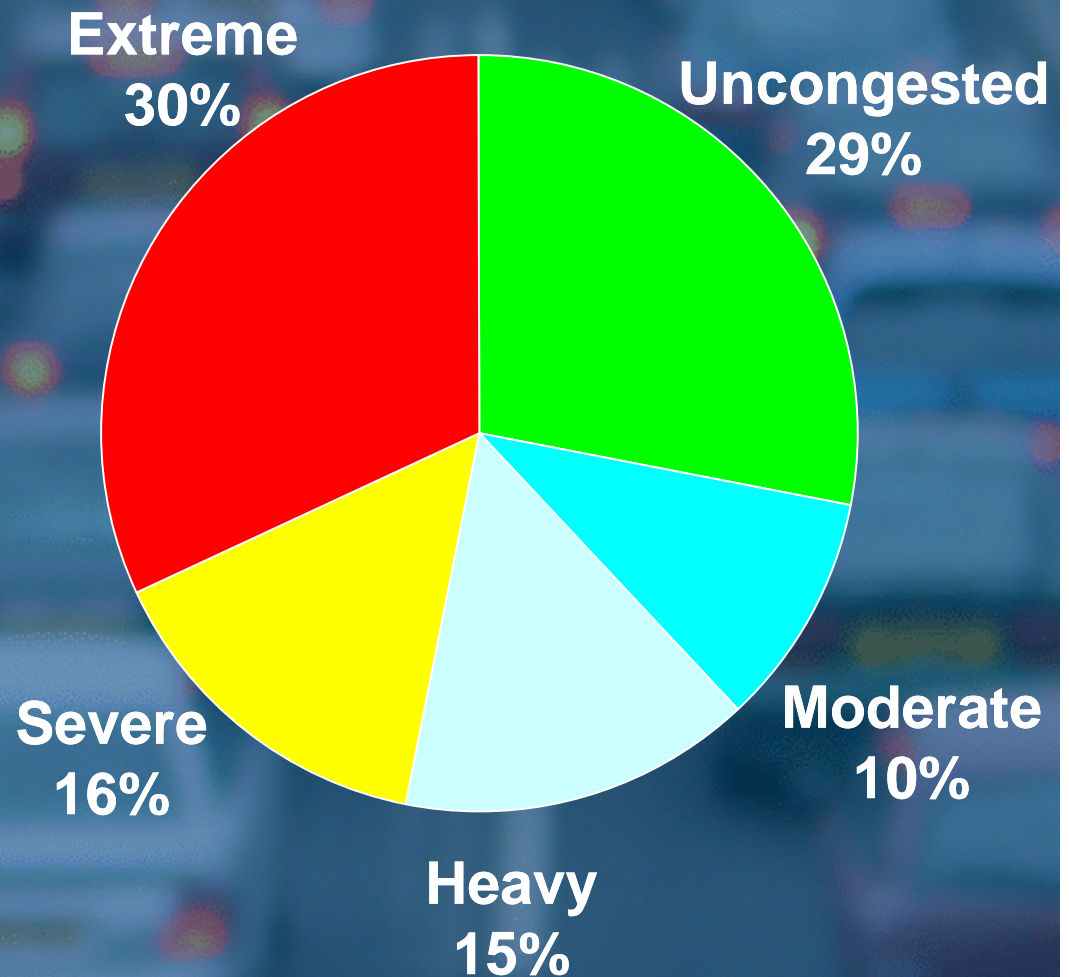
Houston & DFW Congestion

1982 Total Delay =
47 Million Hours



**Wasted Fuel
(Same Trend)
203 Million
Gallons in 2005**

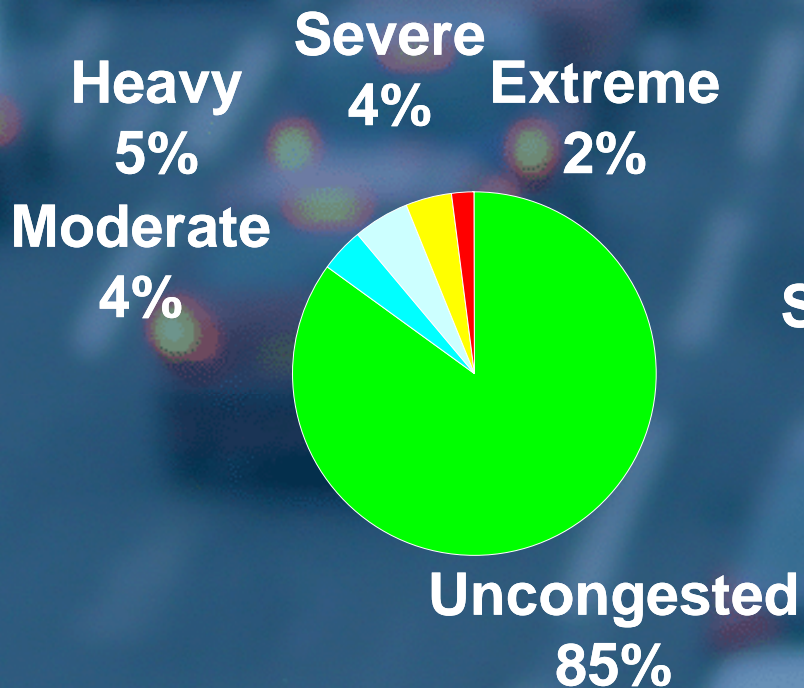
2005 Total Delay =
276 Million Hours



San Antonio & Austin

1982

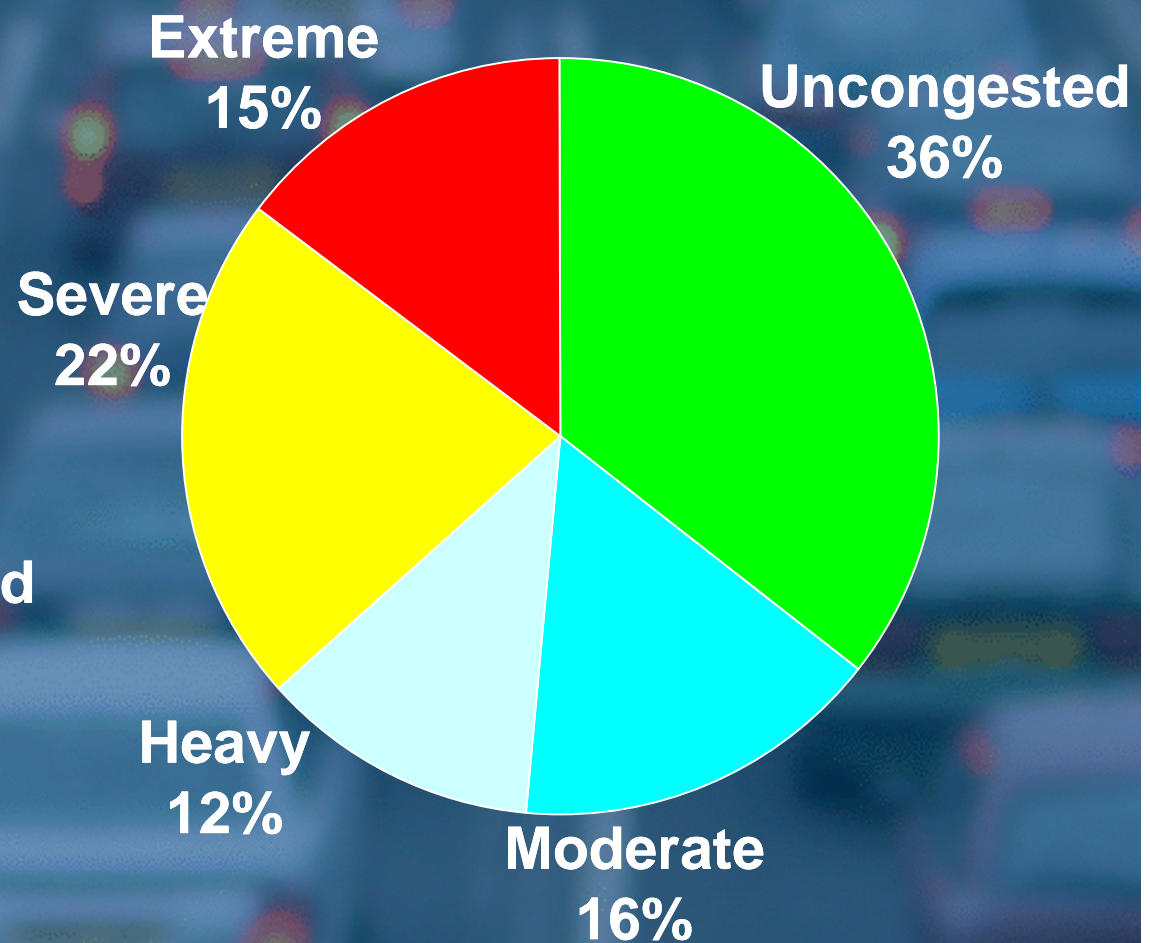
Total Delay =
5 Million Hours



Wasted Fuel
(Same Trend)
36 Million Gallons in
2005

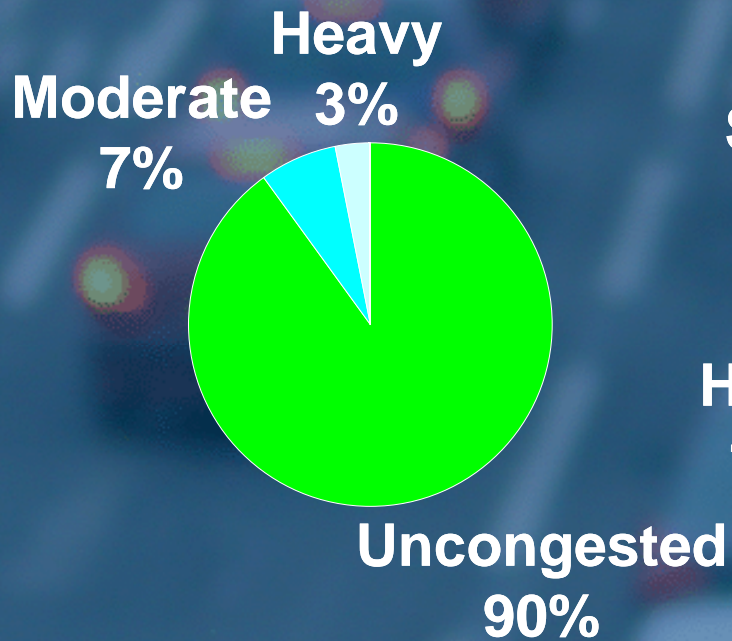
2005

Total Delay =
52 Million Hours



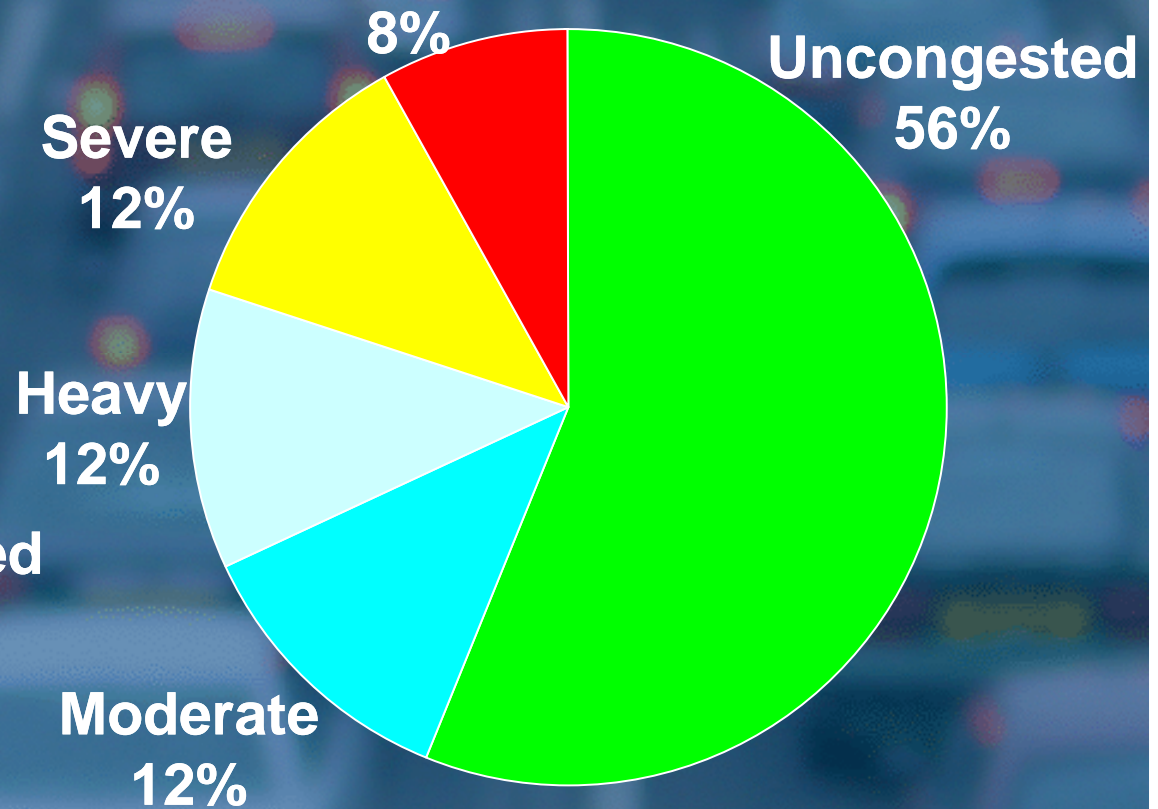
El Paso

1982 Total Delay =
0.6 Million Hours



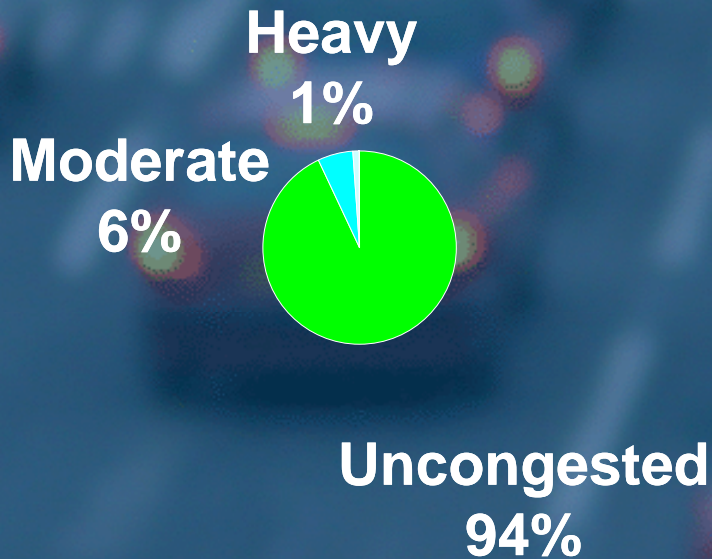
**Wasted Fuel
(Same Trend)
6 Million Gallons in
2005**

2005 Total Delay =
8.7 Million Hours



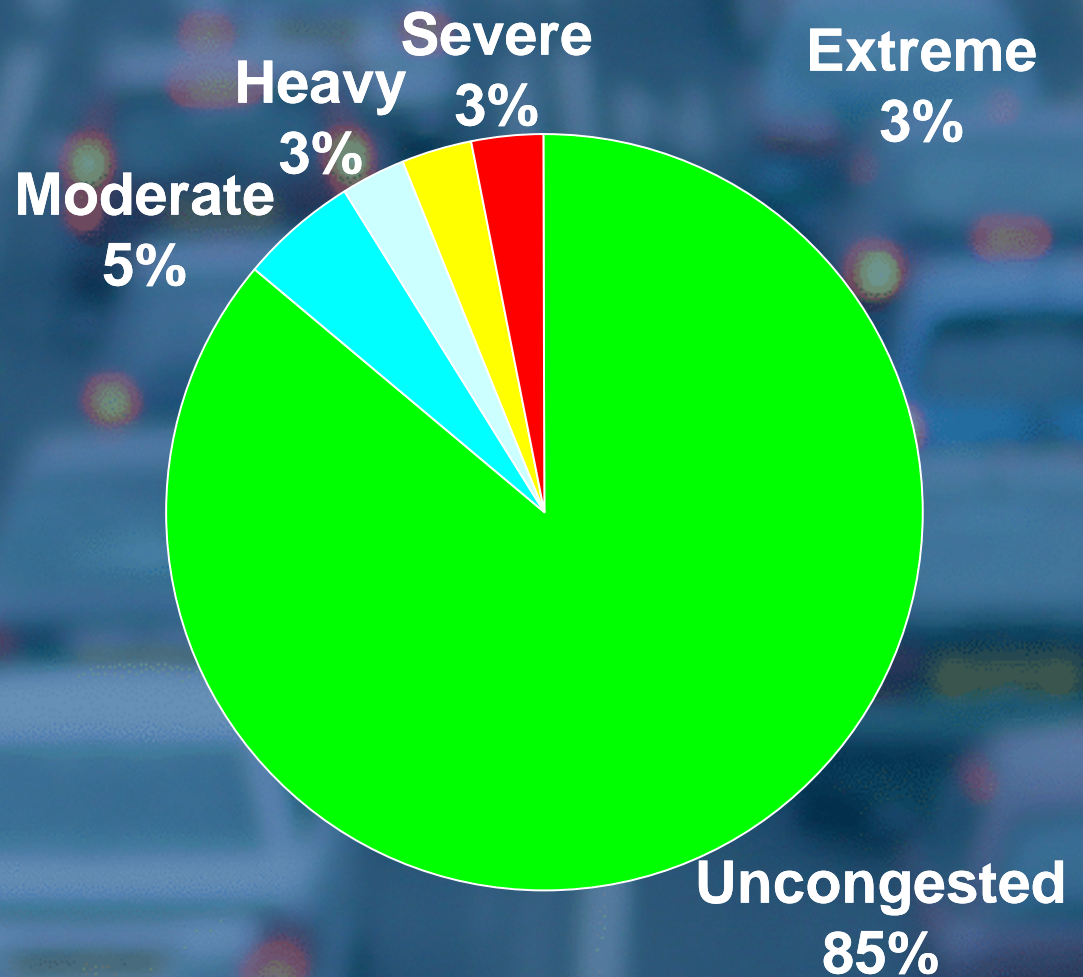
Lower Rio Grande Valley

1982 Total Delay =
0.2 Million Hours



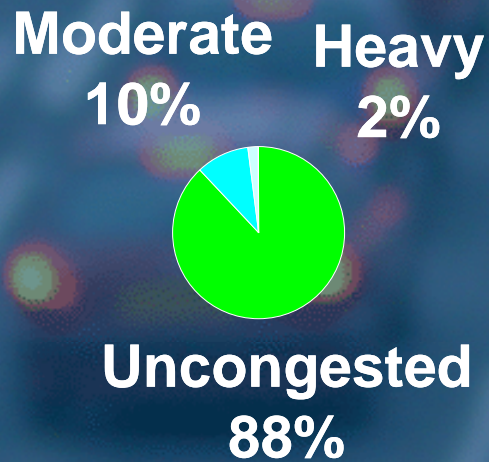
**Wasted Fuel
(Same Trend)
2.5 Million Gallons in
2005**

2005 Total Delay =
4.1 Million Hours

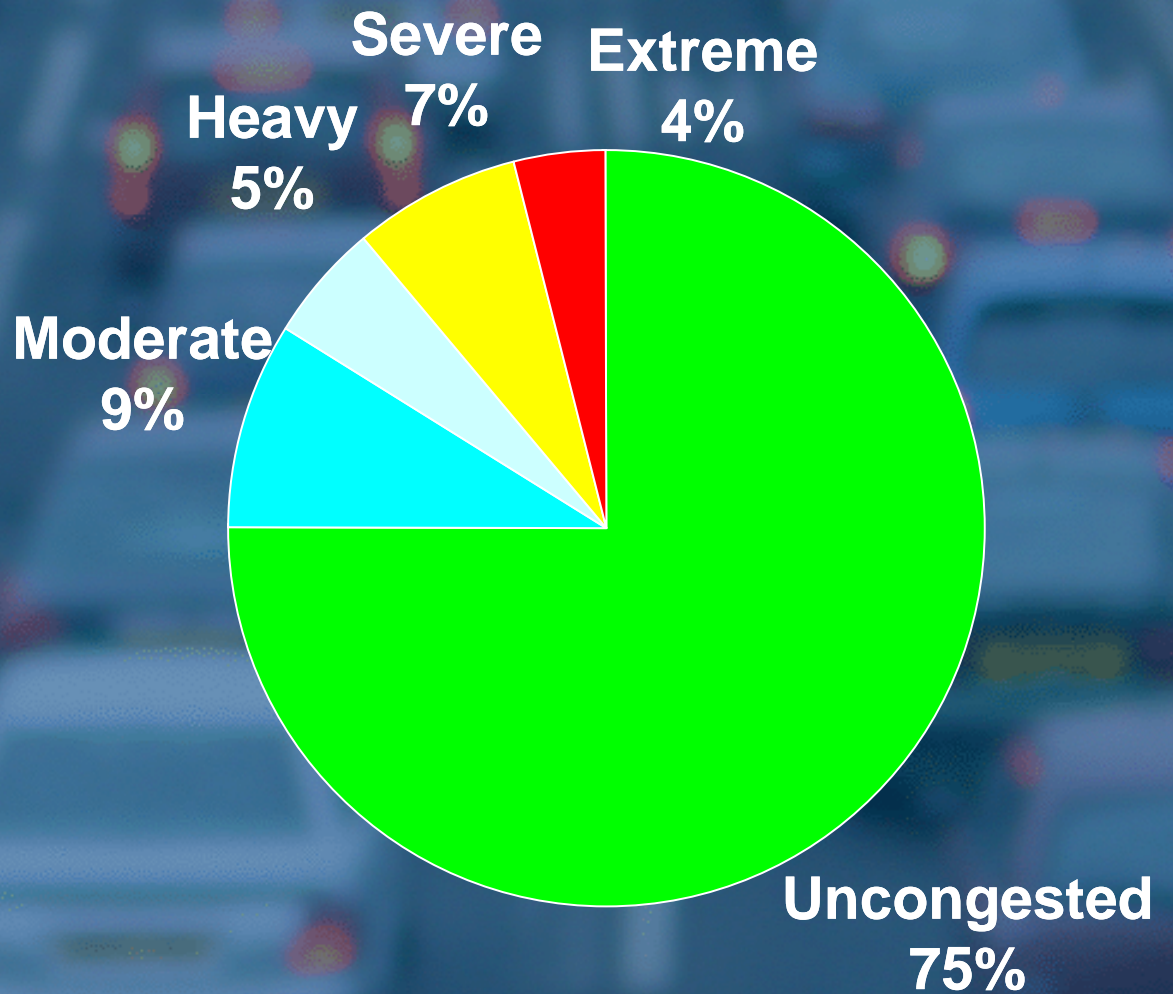


Laredo

1982 **Total Delay =
65,000 Hours**



2005 **Total Delay =
1.3 Million Hours**

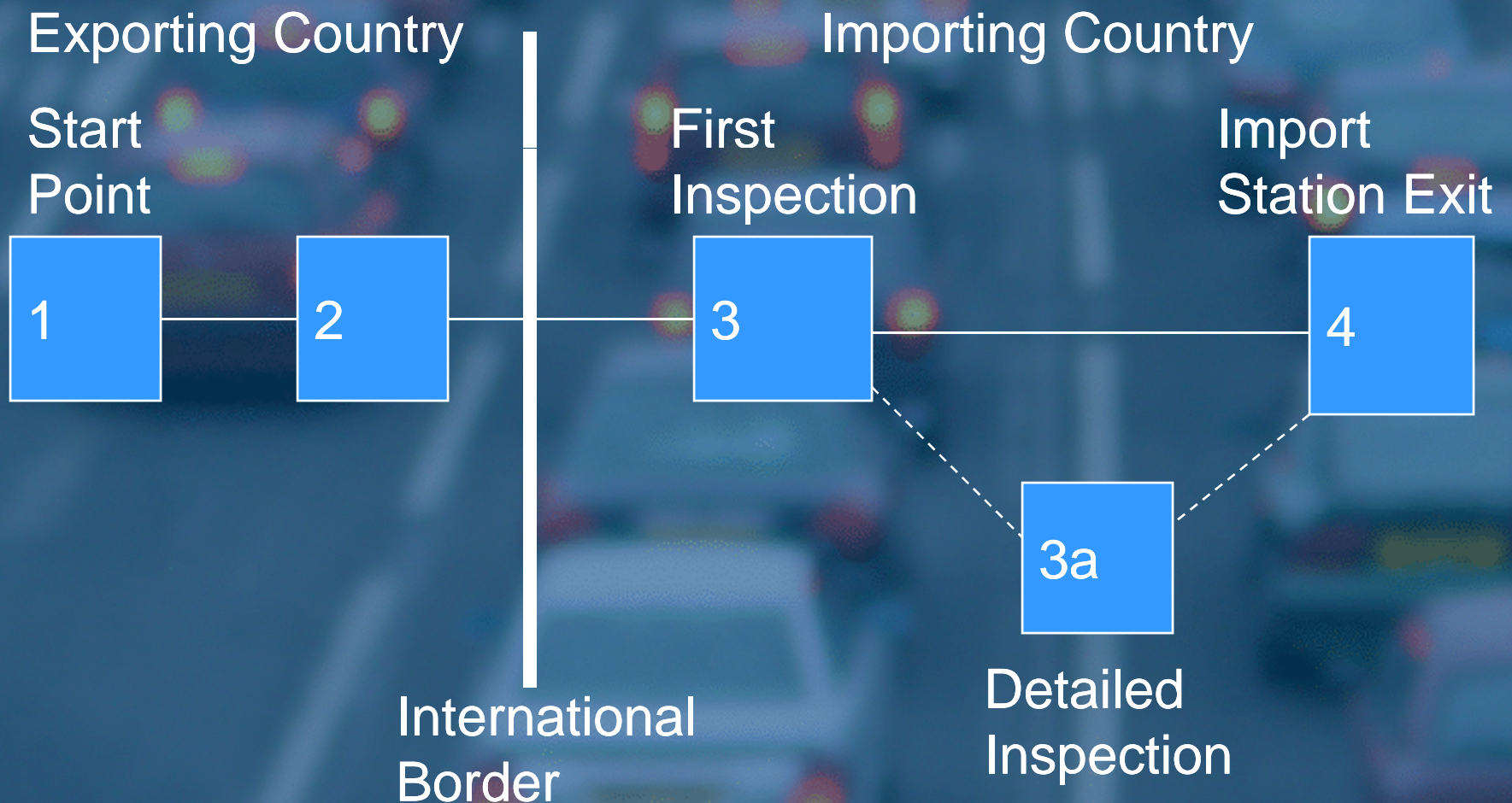


**Wasted Fuel
(Same Trend)
700,000 Gallons
in 2005**

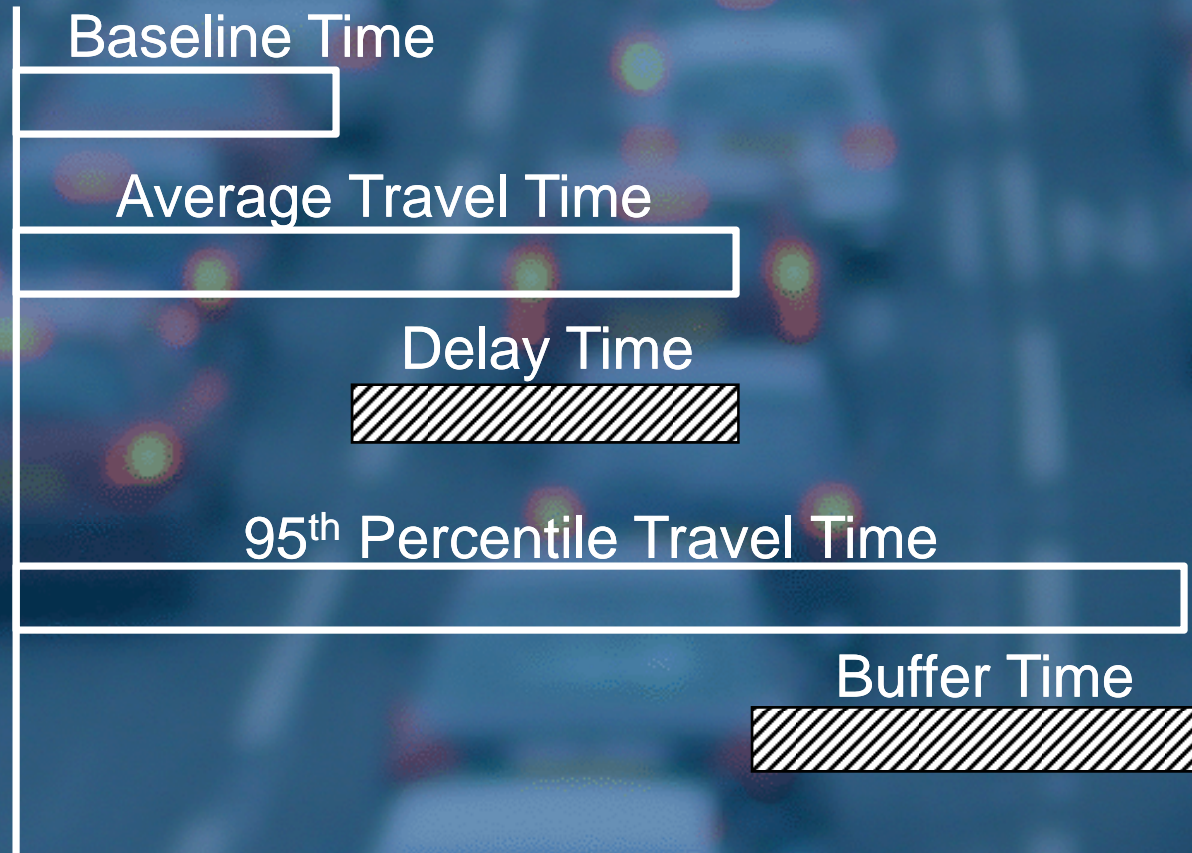
Border Crossing Congestion

- Not like “metropolitan” congestion
- Transportation effects separated from inspection regimes
 - Measure
 - Identify events, operations, situations
- End Result: Travel time and “why?”

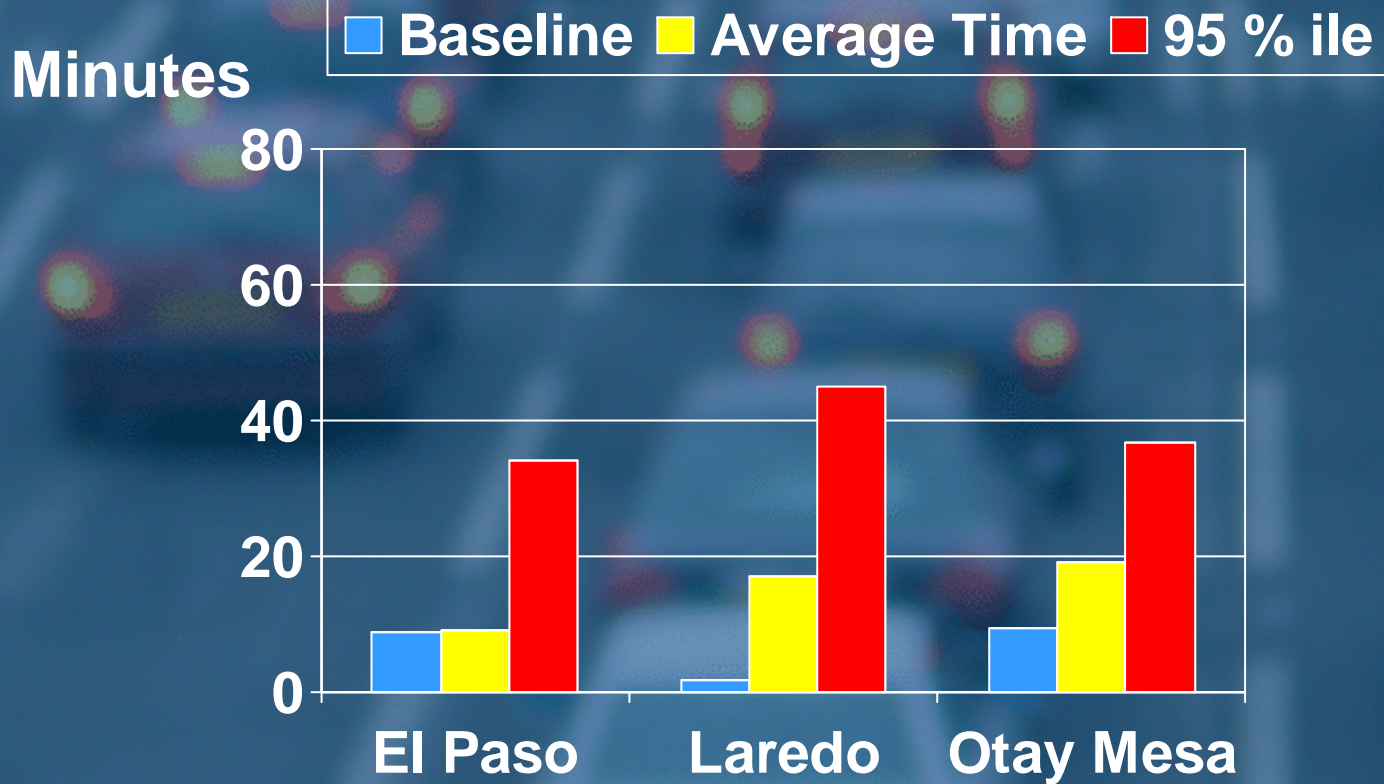
Data Collection Locations at Typical Border Crossing



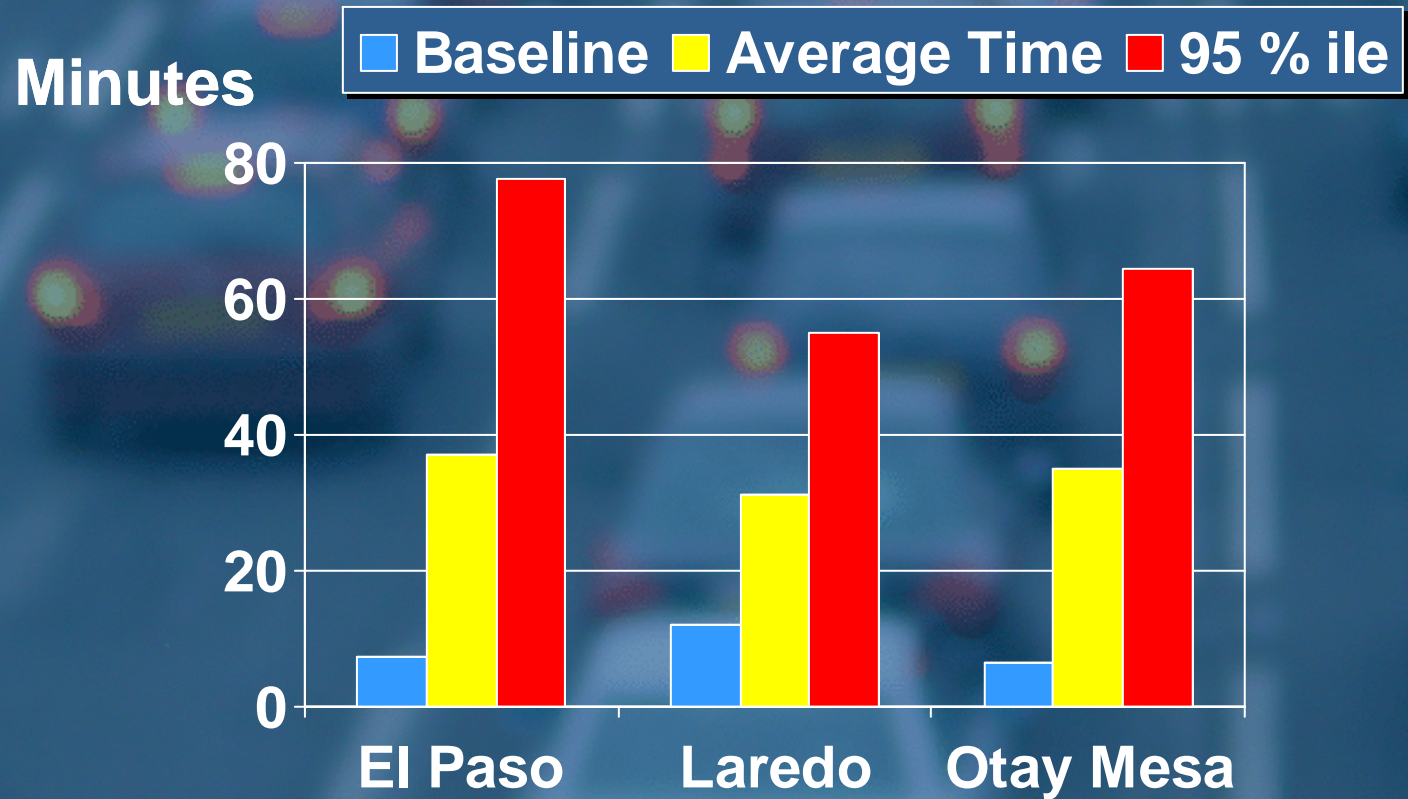
Congestion Measures



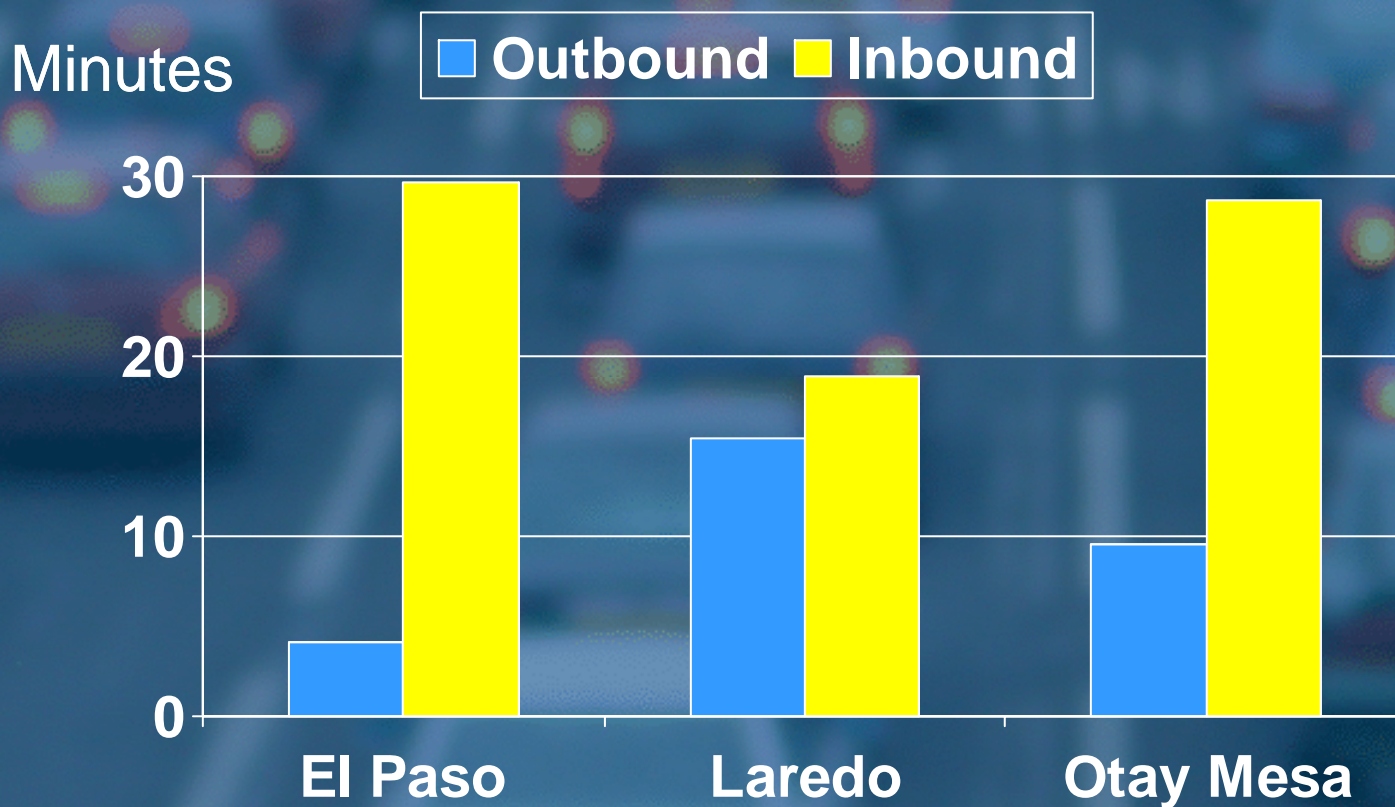
Outbound Travel Time Southern Border – 2001



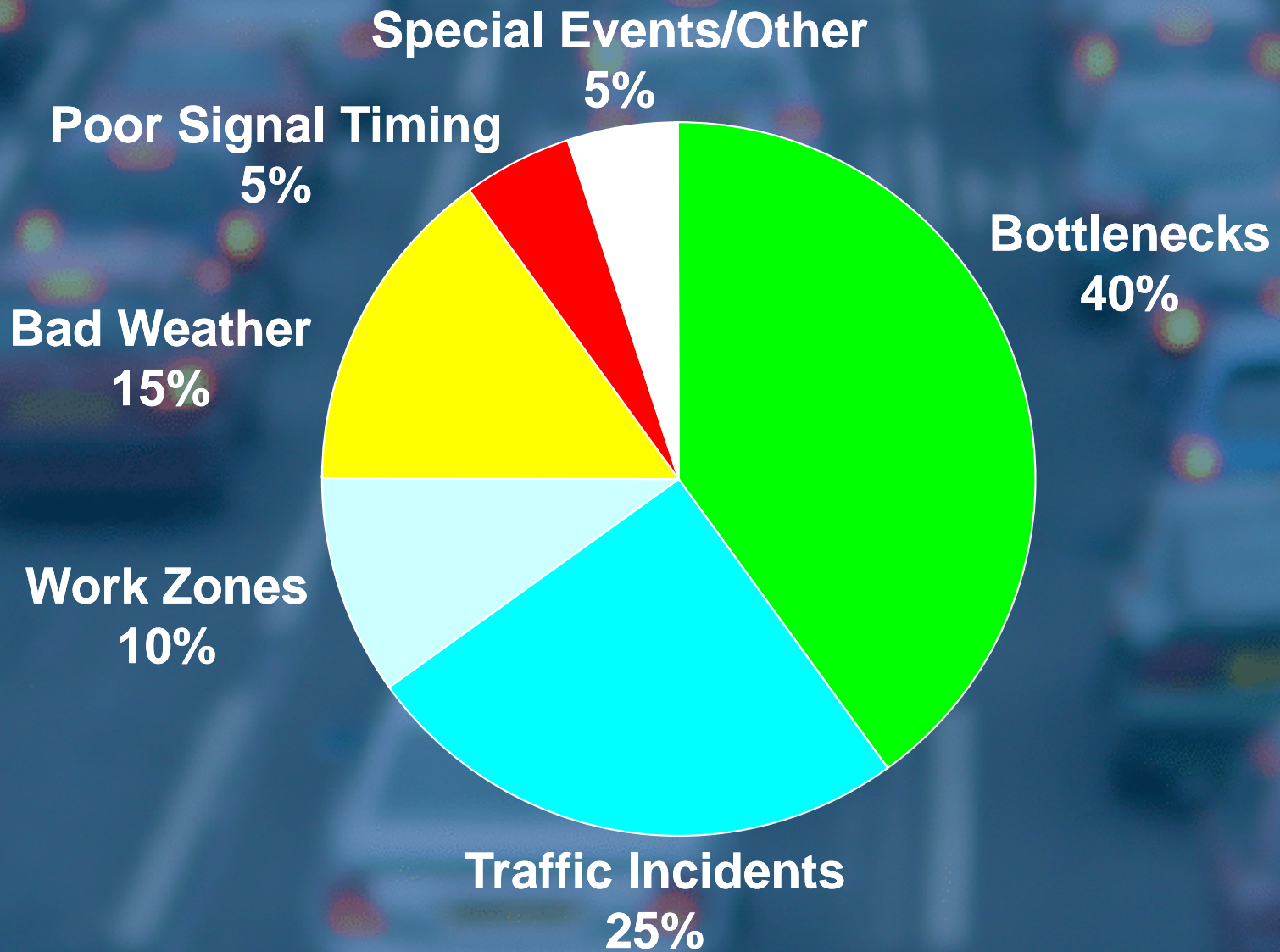
Inbound Crossing Times Southern Border - 2001



2001 Delay Times Southern Crossings



Congestion Has Many Causes



...But No Single Solution

100%

% Varies for Each City

0%



Accept Some Level of Congestion

Diversify Development Patterns

Manage the Construction Process

Manage the Demand

Improve System Efficiency

Build More Capacity

The Strategies and Choices Should Also Be Different in...

- Freight Corridors & Border Crossings
- Rural Areas and Tourism Centers
- Small & Large Urban Areas
- Downtowns and Suburbs
- Stable & Growing Regions
- Ports

Congestion problems in rural Texas are a little different



Congestion solutions are easier to
implement in rural Texas



...because we work with our stakeholders

Implementation of Solutions

- Where is the problem?
What strategies will work?
What benefit? What cost?
- How do we motivate choices?
 - Timely information
 - Pre-clearance programs
 - Toll roads & priced lanes
 - Parking policies
- Key - Good agency(s) with the right plan & cost
- What doesn't work?
 - “Give us more money and we'll spend wisely”

What's the Long-Term Strategy?

- Aggressively operate & focus on service
- Add capacity & service; move people & freight
- Partner with the public
 - Do a good job
 - What can travelers & business do?
 - What strategies and why?
 - Performance reports & targets
 - What are the benefits?
- Reliable operations and on-time project delivery are part of the next funding request

(<http://mobility.tamu.edu>)